

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6085
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 1497

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, DA, JA
SUBJECT: VISIT OF DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO JAPAN

REF: COPENHAGEN 1194

1. IN REMARKS TO THE PRESS UPON HIS RETURN MARCH 2 FROM JAPAN
(SEE REFTEL), DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN
STATED THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH HIS MEETINGS IN
TOKYO AS EC EMISSARY TO DISCUSS EC-JAPANESE TRADE.

2. THE PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY ANDERSEN TO THE PRESS
WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. JAPAN AND THE EC WILL NOW WORK TOWARDS AN
AGREEMENT THAT REDUCES THE IMBALANCE IN THEIR TRADE.

B. THE EC IS COUNTING ON EARLY NEGOTIATION OF
THE AGREEMENT. THE EC HAS EMPHASIZED THAT IT IS
IMPORTANT TO SHOW SOME PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS
AT THE EC SUMMIT MEETING IN GERMANY IN JULY OF THIS
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YEAR.

C. BOTH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA AND FOREIGN
ECONOMIC MINISTER MADE CONCRETE PROMISES TO CONCLUDE
AN AGREEMENT WITH THE EC.

D. THE VISIT CLEARED UP JAPANESE UNCERTAINTY

ABOUT THE ROLES OF THE EC COMMISSION AND THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTER WITH RESPECT TO THE TRADE SITUATION BETWEEN THE EC AND JAPAN. THE JAPANESE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT THE COMMISSION IS THE ONLY AUTHORIZED NEGOTIATING PARTNER AND THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE REALLY SERIOUS. EC PRESIDENT ROY JENKINS HAS INVITED FUKUDA TO BRUSSELS TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS EC INITIATIVE.

E. ALTHOUGH JAPAN HAS PROPOSED A 42 PERCENT DECREASE IN TARIFFS AS PART OF THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS, THE EC ANNOT HARVEST FRUITS FROM SUCH NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL 1988. THEREFORE THE EC WANTS AN EARLY AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN.

F. EVEN IF JAPAN LIBERALIZES TRADE, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT CONSUMPTION OF EC GOODS WILL INCREASE IN JAPAN. EC EXPORTERS WILL HAVE TO MAKE AN EXTRA EFFORT TO OVERCOME PRESENT JAPANESE CONSUMPTION HABITS.

G. THE JAPANESE POINTED OUT THAT THEIR NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS WITH THE U.S. HAD A BLOBAL APPLICATION AND THAT THOSE WITH THE EC WOULD ALSO.
DEAN

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